AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A[[n automobile]] vehicle seat belt [[structure and an assist apparatus thereof, wherein]] apparatus comprising:

a seat belt portion [[is]] attached in tension, without being in contact with a body of an occupant[[,]]; and [[there is employed]]

a flexible elastic material mounted to [[a]] said seat belt portion, said flexible elastic material being capable to expand so as to form a spherical shape when an accident occurs, for preventing the occupant from sliding out from a lower area of the seat belt apparatus [[portion]].

5. (Currently Amended) A[[n automobile]] vehicle seat belt [[structure and an assist apparatus thereof, wherein]] apparatus comprising:

a seat belt portion [[is]] attached in tension without[[,]] being in contact with a body of an occupant[[,]]; and [[there is employed]]

an auxiliary air bag mounted to one of said seat [[a]] belt portion and [[or]] a belt latch portion, said auxiliary air bag is capable of being expanded when one of an accident and [[or]] an expansion of another air bag[[, previously provided within an automobile,]] occurs, for preventing the occupant from sliding out from a lower area of the seat belt apparatus.

6. (Currently Amended) A[[n automobile]] vehicle seat belt apparatus [[structure and an assist apparatus thereof as claimed in]] of claim 4, further comprising right and left supporting columns having fixing positions, and wherein said fixing positions [[of said right and left supporting

columns of a seat body in the seat belt portion]] can be freely adjusted in correspondence to a body condition of the occupant.

7. (Previously Presented) A[[n automobile]] vehicle seat belt apparatus [[structure and an assist apparatus thereof as claimed in]] of claim 4, further comprising [[wherein in order to easily disengage the seat belt when the accident occurs,]] a belt latch portion and a latch-receiving portion [[are]] attached by an electric magnet,[[ic function, and are structured such that when]] said electric magnet being disabled to permit separation of said belt latch portion and said latch-receiving portion in response to one of cessation of engine rotation [[is stopped due to said accident]] and a power generating function [[is stopped, energizing of an electric magnet is stopped, and said electric magnetic function which is interlocked with said power generating function is automatically lost]].

8. (Currently Amended) A[[n automobile]] vehicle seat belt apparatus [[structure and an assist apparatus thereof as claimed in]] of claim 4, [[wherein]] further comprising an expanded flexible material [[is]] mounted to a [[the]] seat belt portion in an assistant driver's seat so as to reduce a gap between an occupant in said assistant driver's seat and a dash board portion, wherein said expanded flexible material moves and deforms with a motion of the seat belt portion in said assistant driver's seat so as to stabilize a head portion and a body when the accident occurs.

9. (Previously Presented) A[[n automobile]] vehicle seat belt [[structure and an assist apparatus thereof, wherein]] apparatus comprising:

a seat belt portion, which is adapted to run[[s]] across an occupant's body, [[is]] attached in tension and adapted not to [[without being in]] contact with the body of the occupant, thereby removing a pressure feeling applied by a conventional shoulder belt[[,]]; and [[wherein]]

prevention means for preventing a submarine phenomenon, wherein an occupant slides out from a lower area of the conventional belt when an accident occurs, [[is]] provided in the seat belt portion.

10. (Currently Amended) A[[n automobile]] vehicle seat belt apparatus [[structure and an assist apparatus thereof as claimed in]] of claim 9 [[6]], further comprising [[wherein in order to easily disengage the seat belt when the accident occurs,]] a belt latch portion and a latch-receiving portion [[are]] attached by an electric magnet,[[ic function, and are structured such that when]] said electric magnet being disabled to permit separation of said belt latch portion and said latch-receiving portion in response to one of cessation of engine rotation [[is stopped due to said accident]] and a power generating function [[is stopped, energizing of an electric magnet is stopped, and said electric magnetic function which is interlocked with said power generating function is automatically lost]].

11. (Currently Amended) A[[n automobile]] vehicle seat belt apparatus [[structure and an assist apparatus thereof as claimed in]] of claim 9 [[6]], further comprising [[wherein]] an expanded flexible material [[is]] mounted to a [[the]] seat belt portion in an assistant driver's seat so as to reduce a gap between an occupant in said assistant driver's seat and a dash board portion, wherein said expanded flexible material moves and deforms with a motion of the seat belt portion in said assistant driver's seat so as to stabilize a head portion and a body when the accident occurs.

12. (Currently Amended) A[[n automobile]] vehicle seat belt apparatus [[structure and an assist apparatus thereof as claimed in]] of claim 9 [[6]], further comprising right and left supporting columns having fixing positions, and wherein said fixing positions [[of said right and left supporting columns of a seat body in the seat belt portion]] can be freely adjusted in correspondence to a body condition of the occupant.

13. (Currently Amended) A[[n automobile]] vehicle seat belt apparatus [[structure and an assist apparatus thereof as claimed in]] of claim 5, further comprising right and left supporting columns having fixing positions, and wherein said fixing positions [[of said right and left supporting columns of a seat body in the seat belt portion]] can be freely adjusted in correspondence to a body condition of the occupant.

14. (Currently Amended) A[[n automobile]] vehicle seat belt apparatus [[structure and an assist apparatus thereof as claimed in]] of claim 5, further comprising [[wherein in order to easily disengage the seat belt when the accident occurs,]] a belt latch portion and a latch-receiving portion [[are]] attached by an electric magnet,[[ic function, and are structured such that when]] said electric magnet being disabled to permit separation of said belt latch portion and said latch-receiving portion in response to one of cessation of engine rotation [[is stopped due to said accident]] and a power generating function [[is stopped, energizing of an electric magnet is stopped, and said electric magnetic function which is interlocked with said power generating function is automatically lost]].

15. (Currently Amended) A[[n automobile]] vehicle seat belt apparatus [[structure and an assist apparatus thereof as claimed in]] of claim 5, further comprising [[wherein]] an expanded flexible material [[is]] mounted to a [[the]] seat belt portion in an assistant driver's seat so as to reduce a gap between an occupant in said assistant driver's seat and a dash board portion, wherein said expanded flexible material moves and deforms with a motion of the seat belt portion in said assistant driver's seat so as to stabilize a head portion and a body when the accident occurs.